

*aeginetia* Linn.; *Phelipaea indica* (Linn.) Sprengel ex Steudel.

Root slightly fleshy. Stems (10-25 cm) branched from near base. Leaves small reddish, ovate, 6-9 x 2-3 mm near the stem base, glabrous. Inflorescence solitary terminal, purplish-red (non-green); flower fimbriate, ebracteate, ebracteolate, 1.25-5 cm long. Calyx acuminate, spathe like, pink. Corolla purplish-red, tubular-campanulate, 1.25-5 cm, long, tube

slightly curved. Ovary 1-locular, parietal placentas four. Style 1-1.5 cm. Capsule conical 1-2 cm. Seeds numerous 0.03-0.04 mm.

**Fl. & Fr.:** May-September.

**Distribution:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, India: western Himalaya in Kumaon to Nepal, Assam and Khasia Hills.

## REFERENCE

KEHIMKAR, I. (2000): Common Indian Wild Flowers. Bombay Natural History Society & Oxford University Press, Mumbai. Pp. 141.

23. *DIOSPYROS NIGRESCENS* (DALZ.) SALDANHA (EBENACEAE):  
AN ADDITION TO THE FLORA OF TAMIL NADU<sup>1</sup>

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During the floristic survey of the Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu, we came across an interesting species of *Diospyros* in the Sirumalai hills. This species was examined critically, and was identified as *Diospyros nigrescens*. It has not been reported from Tamil Nadu so far. The present study extends its distribution to Tamil Nadu.

*Diospyros nigrescens* (Dalz.) Saldanha in Saldanha & Nicolson, Fl. Hassan. 197. 1976. *Diospyros angustifolia* (Miq.) Kostermans, Ceylon J. Sci. 12: 106. 1977. *Maba nigrescens* Dalz. in Dalz. & Gibson, Bombay Fl. 142. 1861; Cooke, Fl. Bombay 2: 97 (157). 1904; Gamble, Fl. Presi. Madras. 768 (540). 1921.

Trees, branches fulvous-pubescent. Leaf blade elliptic-lanceolate, acute at apex, cuneate at base, with reticulation slightly raised beneath, fulvous hairy on midrib beneath, to 8 x 3 cm. Inflorescence 1-3 flowered, axillary subsessile clusters. Flowers 3-4-merous. Calyx lobe ovate, acute, hairy. Corolla white, hairy. Stamens 6-9, pistillode rudimentary, staminodes 0. Ovary 3-celled, hairy. Stigmas 3. Fruit ellipsoid, clothed when young with fulvous silky hairs, fruiting calyx cup shaped (Fig. 1).

**Fl. & Fr.:** February-September.

**Ecology:** Sporadically occur in evergreen forests and stream banks on the Ghats.

**Distribution:** Confined to the Bombay Presidency in Konkan and Kanara (Cooke 1908), the Sirumalai hills of Tamil Nadu.

**Specimen examined:** The Sirumalai hills (Eastern Ghats), Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu. Karuppusamy and Rajasekaran, 1058 (SKU), Karuppusamy, 1131 (SKU).

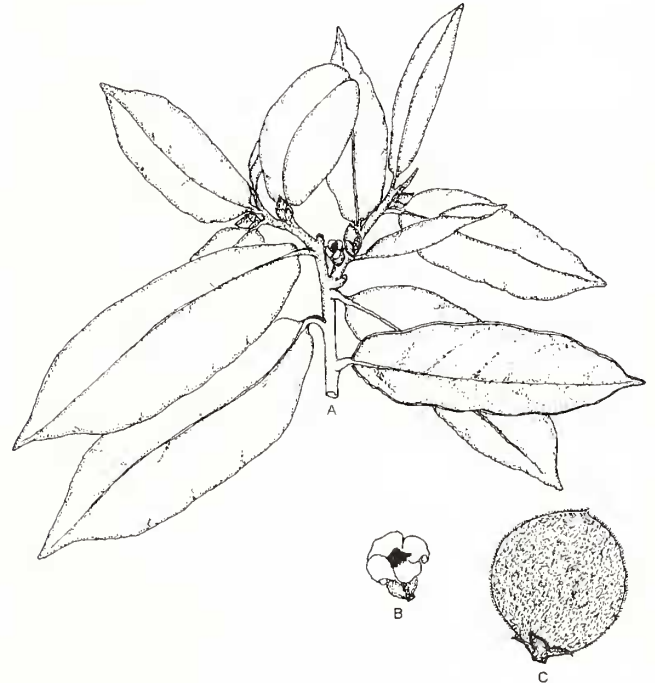


Fig. 1: *Diospyros nigrescens* (Dalz.) Saldanha: A. Flowering twig, B. Flower, C. Fruit

## REFERENCE

COOKE, T. (1908): Flora of the Presidency of Bombay, Vol. III. Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehradun. Pp. 157-158.